

REMARKS

The present request is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated November 30, 2004, which set a three-month period for response, making any response due by February 28, 2005.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,958,295 to Green et al. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,636,583 to Rosen. Claims 1, 7-13, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB patent 1,222,648 to Rickett in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,372,423 to Anderson. Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,084,372 to Krohm in view of Anderson.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 18 and claim 16, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, the Applicants note that claim 18, added in the last amendment, is allowable claim 16 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 16 has been canceled in this amendment, along with claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-15 and 17 have been amended where necessary, so that each claim depends ultimately from allowable claim 18.

Also in this amendment, new claim 19 has been added, which includes most of the features of allowed claim 18. However, new claim 19 omits the feature that "the width of the constriction grooves (106), at least over an outer partial region, is greater than the thickness of the spring strips (28, 30)".

This feature is not an essential or germane feature. As shown in Figure 4, it is sufficient if the constriction grooves are only minimally as wide as the spring strips, since then the wiper strip can be held without tension in the support element 12, and also can be displaced without difficulty in the longitudinal direction in the support element 12, so that it can be connected with this element. (The Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the specification, pages 9-10).

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-15, 17, and 19 now stand in condition for allowance, along with claim 18. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the final rejections and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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